

First People's Language Culture Committee
c/o The Tulalip Tribes
Cultural Resource Department
6410 23rd Ave, NE
Tulalip, WA 98217-9694

Dear First People's Language Committee,

My name is Andrea Naccarato and currently I am a junior at Central Valley High School in Spokane, WA. As the State Board of Education student representative from Eastern Washington, I had the wonderful privilege of attending the potlatch held on January 15th in the Skokomish Long House. By far this was one of the greatest experiences of my life.

Upon arrival I was greeted by welcoming faces, bright smiles, and numerous handshakes. People went out of their way to make the evening a remarkable experience. As the celebration continued, I enjoyed the large variety of delicious foods, my favorite being the potatoes! I was overwhelmed by the thought of how much work it must have taken to prepare such an enormous amount of food! The gifts that I received that night truly touched my heart. Everyone present was selfless in their giving and made me feel truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderful moment in history. It was an amazing feat to fit all of my new possessions into the suitcase for the flight home!

The most memorable experience for me was listening to the speakers both during the meeting and in the Long House. Each person who spoke told their own story with love that ran deep and a passion that was breathtaking. I learned more about the culture of our true "Americans" that night than I have ever learned in school. I wish I could bring back the years that the languages were lost and rewrite the history books. After years of pain and struggling, it was good to see a law that should have been passed years ago, finally become reality. I support all of your efforts and applaud your hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I would like to thank you for giving me a gift that will last a lifetime.

Andrea Naccarato

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea J. Naccarato". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'A' and 'N'.